

Gorbachev to brief Bush on contacts

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev will send a letter to U.S. President George Bush briefing him on a high-ranking Soviet envoy's recent visit to Iraq, his spokesman said Tuesday. Vitaly Ignatenko told a news conference the outcome of the visit last week by Presidential Council member Yevgeny Primakov gave reason for hope that the Gulf crisis would be settled. But Ignatenko declined to give details of Primakov's talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein or to disclose the contents of Gorbachev's letter to Bush, which is expected to be sent on Wednesday. After Primakov's visit to Iraq, it was announced that nearly one third of the Soviet Union's 5,000-strong contingent of technicians would be brought home before their contracts expired. The Kremlin had said earlier the specialists would return only on completion of their contracts. Moscow, one of Baghdad's closest allies and biggest arms suppliers before the Gulf crisis erupted, has allied itself with the international condemnation of Iraq's annexation of Kuwait. But it has stopped of sending troops to join the massive buildup of Western and Arab forces confronting Iraq.

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Kuwaiti speaker calls for unity

NICOSIA (R) — The speaker of Kuwait's parliament urged Kuwaitis Tuesday to avoid controversial issues when a people's congress meets in Saudi Arabia this week. The Kuwait News Agency, KUNA, quoted Abdul Aziz Al Massaid as saying such issues should be avoided or postponed until the conference's objectives — liberating Kuwait and rallying behind its legitimate leadership — were realized. Massaid, speaker of an essentially toothless assembly elected less than two months before Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait, did not specify what issues he was referring to. But there were widespread calls both before and after the election for greater democracy in Kuwait and a relaxation of the ruling Al Sabah family's hold on the seats of power. "Kuwait is one family. There cannot be differences between its members over Kuwait's public interests," Massaid, publisher of Kuwait's now-suspended Al Rai Al Zaman daily, told KUNA. The venue of the three-day meeting opening Saturday has yet to be disclosed. It will be held under the title "Liberation — our slogan, course and aim," according to an earlier report by KUNA.

Israel seals off Haram Al Sharif

Protests spread to Nazareth, Galilee

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israel sealed the Haram Al Sharif complex for a day and imposed sweeping curfews in the occupied territories Tuesday to head off Palestinian protests over the massacre of at least 30 Palestinians at the complex.

While large parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip were under curfews and village closures, protests erupted in Arab Jerusalem and in Nazareth.

In Umm Tuba on the southern outskirts of Jerusalem, two border policemen were stabbed with a scimitar by Arabs they had stopped at a checkpoint. As the car drove away the policemen

opened fire, hitting two occupants, police said. None of the injuries was serious, police said.

Police fired tear-gas to disperse dozens of activists who blocked roads in Nazareth with rocks and garbage cans, an Arab reporter said. Masked youths shouting pro-Iraqi slogans smashed a department store's windows and beat shopkeepers.

Police seized the keys to the gates of Haram Al Sharif complex, Islam's third holiest site, and fired tear-gas at Muslims who tried to break through their doors, an Arab reporter at the scene said.

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Izzeddine summons big power envoys, seeks swift action

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Tuesday lodged a strongly-worded protest with the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council over Monday's massacre of at least 30 Palestinians by Israeli forces in occupied Jerusalem and sought swift action towards protecting the Palestinian people living in the occupied territories.

Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddine, who is acting foreign minister, summoned the ambassadors of the United States, France, the Soviet Union and Britain and the Chinese charge d'affaires and in a meeting with them voiced the deep concern of the Jordanian government and people over Monday's killings.

The massacre "should prompt the international community to focus on the Palestinian problem in a way that reflects the international responsibility towards the problem," the minister told the diplomats.

Izzeddine expressed hope that the Palestinian problem would receive the same enthusiasm that other issues are receiving when discussed at the Security Council."

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No choice for Israel but to leave Arab land — Iraq

Baghdad announces Al Hijara missile

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein told Israel Tuesday that it has no choice but to leave Arab territories, and said that Baghdad possessed a new long-range missile that could strike targets hundreds of kilometres away.

In a message read over Baghdad Radio responding to Monday's killing in Arab Jerusalem of at least 30 Palestinians, Saddam said that Iraq's new missile would strike "when the time of reckoning comes."

"They are the stones of the new missile which the Iraqis have invented with the help of almighty God and which can be launched from somewhere in the land of Iraq to reach the targets of evil when the day of reckoning comes," he said.

"There are plenty of stones in the land of Iraq," Saddam added.

The statement gave no details on how many of the reported missiles Iraq possesses, when they were or will

be deployed or what kind of warheads they can carry.

It was not possible to obtain independent verification of Saddam's claim to have developed a new missile with a range that could also reach Saudi Arabia, where U.S. troops are deployed.

But Dan Kerr, a weapons analyst at London's International Institute for Strategic studies, said such a claim by Iraq would not be extraordinary.

"Iraq has had considerable success with surface-to-surface missiles, mostly derivatives of the Soviet-made Scud," Kerr told the AP in a telephone interview.

Iraq announced in 1988 that it had developed a cluster missile with a longer range than any other weapon of its type.

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Bush: Killing of Palestinians has no impact on Arab front in Gulf

Moscow condemns bloodbath, urges probe

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. President George Bush said Tuesday he did not think Israel's role in Monday's massacre of Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem would jeopardize the fragile Arab coalition in the Gulf. But he said Israeli forces should have acted "with more restraint."

Bush also declared that Iraq should not use this "unfortunate incident" to try to link its takeover of Kuwait with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Asked at a news conference if the flareup would endanger the Arab coalition confronting Iraq, Bush said, "I don't think it could do that."

But he added, "let me just express my strong feelings about this, my sorrow at this tragedy. It is particularly saddening because of the sanctity of the holy places. Violence shattered all this."

"Israeli security forces need to be better prepared for such situations, need to act with greater restraint."

Bush said, "Now, what is needed most of all is calm on both sides. We want to see the longstanding policy of open access to holy places preserved."

Bush renewed an earlier warning that Iraq should not attempt to justify its "illegal invasion of Kuwait by trying to tie it to the Palestine question."

"Iraq's efforts to do this are not working," according to Bush.

"The Arab World is united, almost united, against Iraq," the president said. "If Iraq tries to use this unfortunate incident to link the two issues, I do not think it will be successful."

The Soviet Union condemned the killing and said the United Nations should show the same concern for the Palestinians as it has for Kuwait.

President Mikhail Gorbachev's official spokesman, Vitaly Ignatenko, said the bloodbath on Monday was "a serious crime. Every time we face

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Israel under international fire

Combined agency dispatches

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY Tuesday held an international denunciation of Israel for Monday's massacre of at least 30 Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem.

A strongly-worded statement issued in Rome by the 12-state bloc said: "The tragic events in Jerusalem have once again highlighted the need to solve the Palestinian problem in a just manner" and called for a U.N. peace conference on the Middle East.

"The community and its member states deplore and consider unacceptable the excessive use of force by Israeli occupying troops in putting down Palestinian demonstrations," the statement said.

The 12 said the massacre was part of a series of repeated violations of international law by Israel, particularly over the protection of civilians.

"The community and its member states reaffirm their commitment to a just, global and lasting solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and support the principle of calling an international peace conference under U.N. auspices," it said.

In Strasbourg, Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis expressed

concern that the killings could prove a setback for attempts to resolve the Gulf crisis.

Israel's bloodiest crackdown on civil unrest in 23 years could threaten the international solidarity in condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, he said.

"This could call into question the international cohesion we have managed to achieve so far and this has repercussions for the whole of the Gulf crisis," he said.

"I am very worried about the impact of these events on public opinion in various Arab states," he added.

De Michelis, who currently chairs the European Community's council of ministers, spoke at a news conference at the European parliament.

De Michelis said he deeply regretted the violence, which he described as "totally unjustified," but rebuffed any linkage of the Gulf crisis with the Palestinian uprising.

"The Gulf crisis had to be given priority and has to be solved as a separate issue," de Michelis said.

"[Iraqi President] Saddam Hussein's position makes it very difficult to solve problems such as the Palestinian question," he added.

In Brussels, the EC's Executive Commission expressed dismay at the

high casualties inflicted by the Israelis and condemned violence and provocation on both sides.

"The commission calls on all parties involved to show moderation so as to allow a return to calm and the effective launch of a long-overdue peace process," a statement said.

The bloodbath in Jerusalem will serve the cause of Iraq because the international community would not address the "legitimate concerns" of Palestinians, France's foreign minister said.

Roland Dumas, a radio interview, said the killing will bolster Iraqi attempt to become "champion of the Arab struggle against Israel."

Dumas said he feared further violence unless there was a substantive response to "the legitimate demand by the Palestinian people to have a state and the power in this state, while respecting the security of Israel."

He echoed President Francois Mitterrand's call Monday for an international conference on the Middle East.

Cairo also condemned the killing.

"China has always supported the just struggle of the Palestinian people. We strongly condemn violence

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Israeli forces detain dozens of Palestinians in front of Al Aqsa Mosque after Monday's massacre

Amnesty hits Israel, calls for inquiry

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amnesty International called Tuesday for a judicial public inquiry into the killings Monday of Palestinian civilians by Israeli forces in Jerusalem and other areas of the occupied territories.

"Such an inquiry has become a matter of the greatest urgency in view of the grim pattern of killings of Palestinian civilians by the security forces since December 1987," Amnesty International said.

In a telex sent to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Amnesty International reiterated its fears that the official Israeli guidelines for opening fire may allow unjustifiable killings and that the process of official investigations of alleged abuses related to such guidelines is inadequate. Amnesty International also reiterated its concerns about the deliberate misuse of tear-gas which may be lethal when fired in confined spaces, especially hospitals.

Amnesty International said a public inquiry should be initiated immediately to take evidence from as many eyewitnesses as possible. The inquiry should be asked to reach detailed recommendations aimed at ensuring that the use of force, specifically firearms, is allowed only when fired in self-defense.

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Arab states slam Israel

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAEL CAME under fierce Arab denunciation Tuesday over the massacre of at least 30 Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem and said it had instructed Jordan's stand with those of Arab and Islamic nations to seek the implementation of Security Council resolutions on Palestine.

In Tunis, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has asked Italy, France and Britain to support a PLO proposal that the U.N. Security Council send a fact-finding mission and U.N. troops to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories.

PLO foreign affairs chief Farouk Kaddoumi has asked Italy, France and Britain to support a PLO proposal that the U.N. Security Council send a fact-finding mission and U.N. troops to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The U.N. Security Council should then prepare for an international conference on Middle East peace, it added.

PLO sources said they hoped the Arab League meeting would take place in Tunis within two days.

The league, deeply divided over the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait and the Gulf states' decision to call in U.S. troops, is in the process of moving out of Tunis and back to Cairo.

It was not immediately clear if some Gulf states, angry at the Tunisian government's position on the Gulf conflict, would agree to attend a meeting in Tunis.

A separate statement by the Soviet Foreign Ministry called for a special U.N. investigation into the deaths of the Palestinian protesters at the hands of Israeli police.

The league earlier Tuesday made a similar call for urgent Security Council measures to protect the people of the occupied territories from a repetition of Monday's violence in Jerusalem.

The league described the killings as "a horrific massacre" and accused the Israeli government of giving Jewish racists a free hand to shed Palestinian blood to drive them out of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

U.N. protection should last until a U.N.-sponsored peace conference took place to arrange for Israel's withdrawal and the creation of an independent Palestinian state, the league said.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has also called for an urgent meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Jerusalem Committee, and official source said Tuesday.

Arafat's adviser Bassam Abu Sharif sent a request for the meeting to King Hassan of Morocco, chairman of the 15-member committee.

The PLO leader called on the committee to "intervene on behalf of the population of the Holy City who are fighting not only for themselves but also to preserve the honour and dignity of all Arabs and Muslims."

Egypt expressed "deep concern" over the Jerusalem violence and called for a "balanced" resolution.

The council would not comment on reports that the United States, objecting to proposed resolutions, preferred a general statement which Arab states believe is too mild in light of the violence in occupied Jerusalem.

Many council members, including allies of the United States and Israel, felt a response was needed to maintain the unity of the 15-member body following the passage of eight strong resolutions against Iraq.

The main stumbling block, according to several council sources, was the United States, which did not want to support a resolution it vetoed in May that called for a council commission to recommend ways to protect Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation.

A new draft resolution, drawn up

Peaceful protests held in Jordan to condemn Jerusalem bloodbath

By Marriam M. Shahin and Lamis K. Andoni

AMMAN — Black flags, red-eyed women and angry students lined the streets of the capital and almost all cities and refugee camps in Jordan Tuesday, one day after at least 30 Palestinians were killed and hundreds wounded by Israeli soldiers at Haram Al Sharif, one of the holiest shrines of Islam in Jerusalem.

The spirit of national unity that has prevailed throughout Jordan for the last two and a half months, was evident among the thousands of demonstrators at the University of Jordan, the refugee camps and in front of the U.S. and French embassies without one report of clashes with police and security forces which lined the city streets.

Cairo also condemned the killing.

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before beginning a day-long march winding through the streets of the city.

After a day of political meetings and demonstrations which were peacefully prevented from continuing towards the American embassy, a group of about 300 mostly female demonstrators submitted a memo to the staff at the American embassy addressed to U.S. President Bush.

The statement, signed by American and British university graduates, an international peace conference, and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the Gulf headed the list of demands set forth by all groups and organisations participating in Tuesday's protests.

The day began with a demonstration of about 5,000 people in the largest refugee camp in Jordan, Beqaa, where community leaders called for a three-day general strike. Demonstrations also took place in the Wihdat camp and at the University of Jordan where about 5,000 students closed the main university street

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PLO to endorse Iraqi concept of Gulf-Palestine link

TUNIS (R) — The biggest Palestinian gathering in 11 months, opening in Tunis Wednesday, will endorse Iraq's concept of linking the Gulf crisis and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, officials say.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) factions believe the massacre Palestinians by Israeli police in Arab Jerusalem Monday has strengthened the case for an international conference on both issues.

"What happened yesterday makes the point stronger, if there is to be a political solution to the Gulf crisis, their linkage is the only likely opening," PLO spokesman Jamil Hilal said Tuesday.

The meeting is of the PLO's 100-strong Central Council, the policymaking group which forms a link between the 15-man Executive Committee and the Palestine National Council.

The council should meet once every six months but its most recent session was in Baghdad last November.

The PLO called the meeting principally to back a Middle East peace plan touted without great success by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. He is widely seen as too close to Iraq to be an effective mediator in the Gulf conflict.

But Hilal said the killings in Jerusalem would shift the emphasis back towards the Israeli-occupied territories, where a 34-month-old Palestinian uprising had been losing momentum because of international interest in the Gulf crisis.

Both the PLO leadership and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein have proposed including Iraq's

occupation of Kuwait in the agenda for an international conference which would also deal with the chronic conflicts in Palestine and Lebanon.

Abbas Zaki of the leadership of Arafat's Fatah movement said Monday the Central Council would be asked to endorse the Iraqi initiative. "It is the natural way towards solving the region's problems. Otherwise the world can expect a devastating war," he told the Tunisian newspaper Al Sabah.

The U.S. State Department said Monday it would continue to seek a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict "but this has nothing to do with reversing the course of Iraq's aggression."

Hilal said he saw growing international recognition that it was impossible to separate the two issues, especially from France and Britain, which have special influence as permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

French President Francois Mitterrand said Monday that he did not want to mix the two issues but he added, "one cannot try to defend human rights here and neglect them there."

The Central Council meeting, expected to last two to three days, will repeat PLO calls for the stationing of U.N. troops to deploy in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip pending Israel's withdrawal under Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967.

A major Palestinian grievance has been that the United States and its allies rushed to take action against Iraq while quibbling for the past 23 years over U.N. resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Algeria elections to go ahead if conditions ripe

ALGIERS (R) — President Chadli Benjedid has said Algeria's first multi-party elections for parliament would go ahead as planned early next year as long as the country was calm.

In an unprecedented interview on Algerian Television, Benjedid also said he would not stop down until political and economic reforms were fully implemented, regardless of who won the poll.

"I will respect the rules of the game, I will stick to the date... and I will respect the results of all cases," he said of the elections, set for the first quarter of 1991.

"But I will not allow the elections for such a vital and strategic institution... to be held in an electrified or unsuitable atmosphere that would not allow the Algerian citizens to express himself freely. In such a case we will postpone these elections."

Benjedid's National Liberation Front (FLN), which has ruled a one-party state since independence from France in 1962, faces a strong challenge from the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front, which swept to victory in local polls last June.

Almost 30 parties have been legalised since a new constitution, adopted after October 1988 youth riots, laid the basis for a multiparty system.

Benjedid, elected in 1988 for a third five-year term, said he would stay to oversee reforms regardless of the poll result.

"Whatever party or group wins, I will exercise my functions entrusted to me by the constitution and given to me by the Algerian people to complete this process."

Former Prime Minister Kasdi Merah earlier Monday called on Benjedid to step down, saying presidential elections should im-

Somali rebels claim destroying garrison

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Rebels

say they are engaged in "fierce fighting" in a northwestern Somali town they attacked last week.

The Somali National Movement (SNM) said in a clandestine broadcast it had destroyed a military garrison in Gebiley, killing 65 government soldiers and wounding 105.

But the Monday night broadcast said heavy fighting was continuing in the town, a few kilometres west of the region's main administrative and military centre of Hargeisa.

The rebels have suffered 12 dead and 35 injured in the fighting that began last Thursday, the broadcast said. The report could not be independently verified.

The rebels said they captured a number of assault rifles, some ammunition and destroyed two tanks, an armored vehicle, a jeep and a truck.

In another broadcast, the rebels claimed killing another 18 soldiers and capturing two women Saturday in fighting on the road from Hargeisa to the Red Sea port of Berbera.

"During the fighting the SNM fighters captured two women, one of whom is a Somali national and the other an employee of the International Red Cross. The women have been taken to an SNM army base," the rebel broadcast said.

Neither broadcast mentioned the shooting death of a third Red Cross employee Saturday, as reported by the organisation's headquarters in Geneva.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said Monday the rebels kidnapped Antonella Notari, 29, and the president of the Hargeisa branch of the affiliated Somali Red Crescent.

The women were among a group of four Red Cross-Somali Crescent workers ambushed near Hargeisa as they were returning from a relief mission in the region.

The women were not injured, but a companion, Peter Altweg, 27, was seriously wounded in the raid and died a few hours later, the Red Cross said. The fourth, a local helper, escaped.

The rebels took up arms in 1981 and seek President Mohammad Siad Barre's ouster. However, there is also banditry and inter-clan fighting in most of the Horn of Africa nation's countryside.

Police on alert

Security forces in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, have been put on alert because of expected street violence in protest against a new constitution this week, sources close to the police said Tuesday.

An Islamic fundamentalist group, opposed to government plans to adopt a more liberal constitution formally Thursday, has apparently called for demonstrations after midday prayers on Thursday and Friday.

The government also announced it had cancelled for the first time the annual Oct. 21 celebrations of the bloodless coup that brought Siad Barre to power in 1969.

We have begun to see hope that makes us optimistic that in a short time we will solve our problems, even concerning the debt," he said.

He rejected a call by former President Ahmad Ben Bella, who returned from nine years' exile last month, for a transitional government between now and the elections, saying the economic crisis required the present one to stay.

AMMAN (R) — About 200 more Kuwaiti refugees crossed into Saudi Arabia Monday, officials and diplomats said. Many were being detained until their identifications could be confirmed.

The volume of refugees crossing at the town of Khafji, 300 kilometres north of here, has tapered off slightly since Friday when Iraqi troops opened the border crossing out of Kuwait for five hours a day.

Saudi officials said about 1,200 refugees have crossed since then.

Iraqi troops are confiscating identification papers and Kuwaitis arriving without them must remain at the border crossing in a tent city until their IDs are confirmed.

Most of the 700 people in the camp are women and children fleeing Kuwait without any male relatives, said officials in Khafji.

Anyone with a relative or other sponsor in Saudi Arabia is allowed in immediately.

Iraqi troops last allowed large numbers across the border in mid-September, when 7,000 arrived in just three days.

Refugees said they left Kuwait out of fear of the Iraqi army and dwindling food supplies in the city with each household limited to one bag of bread per day.

Addis Ababa claims wide victories over rebels

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — Ethiopia claims to have scored a number of major victories and inflicted heavy casualties in the last three months against secessionist northern rebels waging Africa's oldest war.

Meanwhile, the rebels said they repulsed a major government offensive Monday near the central Eritrean town of Halhal.

In a statement broadcast over clandestine rebel radio and monitored in Nairobi, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said government forces fled after suffering heavy losses in the daylong battle. The rebels did not give a figure for casualties.

The government, in its claim, said that since July air and ground attacks in central and northern Eritrea had destroyed large numbers of the rebels who have been

fighting since 1961 for independence for the province, Ethiopia's northernmost.

Since intensifying their struggle a year ago, the EPLF rebels have gained control of all but the province's capital, Asmara, which has been under siege for the last few months.

The air force said it had to fly under extremely difficult weather conditions to bomb the guerrillas as they tried to cut off two main roads leading from Asmara.

The EPLF controls a third major highway leading from the provincial capital to the port of Massawa, which they seized in February.

The air force also said it had "completely disrupted" the movement of forces of a separate rebellion being waged by the Tigre People's Liberation Front in provinces south of Eritrea.

Study says Iraqi food stock will last 6 months

LONDON (AP) — Iraq should be able to survive United Nations sanctions for another six months and the international action is not likely to damage Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's position, according to a study published this week.

The report by the intelligence unit of the Economist entitled "Iraq: What if Sanctions Fail?" concluded the sanctions could be damaging in the long term, but not before late next summer.

Since the West is not likely to wait so long, a military strike against Iraq seemed inevitable, the report said.

The long-term effects of the sanctions on the Iraqi economy would be "very heavy," although probably not serious enough in the short term to force compliance with U.N. resolutions, the report said.

It said Iraq's weak point is the food supply which was likely to act as a fuse for the rest of the economy. After March 1991, bulk grain imports will be essential.

"Even if these are supplied on humanitarian grounds, the question will arise of who will pay for them," said the report.

Iraq's foreign assets have been frozen under U.N. Resolution 661 and its chief source of foreign revenue, oil, has been blocked by the trade embargo.

"Its ability to survive in the long term... is extremely doubtful

for as long as its oil exports are physically blocked," the report said.

Iraq's "looting" of gold from Kuwait has given Baghdad the chance to raise \$2 billion if the precious metal can be smuggled abroad and converted into hard currency.

The report said that while a naval blockade could be very efficient, a land blockade would be nearly impossible since the borders with Jordan and Iran are impossible to control.

The use of intermediaries and reliance on extensive smuggling, especially across the border with Iran, were seen in the report as significant factors in Iraq's bid to withstand the sanctions.

Because many foreigners remain in Iraq and Kuwait, some countries may be reluctant to starve their own nationals. Multinational companies are not likely to want to endanger their employees. Humanitarian concerns could splinter the international coalition, the report said.

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The report also predicted hyperinflation as the restricted supply of goods combines with Iraq's attempt to put the Iraqi and Kuwaiti dinars on par and release unissued currency from Kuwait's central bank.

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It was mounted because of heightened fears of an assassination attempt on Thatcher by the Irish Republican Army, which killed a close Thatcher political associate in a July car bombing.

The IRA also attempted to kill a government minister by planting a bomb at a London conference last month.

The outlawed organisation, which is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, blew up a hotel in 1984 where Thatcher was attending a Conservative conference. Five people died in the attack.

Thatcher, who turns 65 Saturday, took her seat amid thunderous applause from the delegates.

Unlike many of her fellow cabinet ministers — all Conservative Party members of parliament — she usually sits through every debate. She winds up the conference with a keynote address on Friday.

The Conservatives meet at one of the gloomiest times for their re-election prospects since Thatcher won the first of her three successive general election victories in 1979.

Britain top U.S. ally in Gulf

BOURNEMOUTH, England (AP) — Conservative Party Chairman Kenneth Baker, opening the party's annual conference Tuesday, said Britain has proved itself America's most loyal ally in the Gulf crisis.

"We are not a nation that shuns its duty... that forsakes its friends," Baker told the 5,000 delegates gathered in a seat-on convention centre under unprecedented security for the four-day conference.

"In our long history, we've had to take up burdens which others have found too heavy," added Baker. "... And when an old ally and friend, the United States of America, calls for our help — they do not call in vain."

Baker was flanked by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and other top party leaders on the podium facing the packed hall beneath the conference slogan, "Strength to succeed."

Thatcher was the first Western ally to send forces to the Gulf after Iraq seized Kuwait Aug. 2 and has followed up with reinforcements due to total 15,000 military personnel.

Sharpshooters were posted on the roof of the convention centre, truckloads of police reinforcements rolled through Bournemouth, and long lines of delegates queued for police searches as part of the huge, \$2-million (\$3.8 million) security operation.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Able Nathan on trial again

RAMEL (AP) — Peace activist Abie Nathan went on trial Tuesday on charges he met twice this year with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in violation of Israel's anti-terrorist law. Nathan was convicted last year for a 1988 meeting with Arafat and served four months of a six-month prison sentence before he was released for good behaviour.

Nathan Tuesday acknowledged in Ramle's magistrate's court that he met the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader two times in March in Tunis. But he pleaded innocent, maintaining the law under which he was charged was unjust. Court officials said Nathan faced up to seven years in jail — three for each alleged violation and an additional year that was "suspended" in the earlier case. Nathan told reporters after the session that he was ready to return to jail. "I am prepared to give my whole life for peace," Nathan said. "The punishment does not deter me... I will continue to fight against this unjust law because it is a law you cannot accept." Nathan, 64, first met Arafat in 1982 when he went to Lebanon during the Israeli siege of Beirut in an unsuccessful attempt to gain freedom for a captured Israeli soldier. He has met him eight times since. He is best known for making a dramatic trip in a private plane to Cairo in 1966 to try to convince Egypt to make peace with Israel. His pirate radio station, the Voice of Peace, operates from a ship in the Mediterranean Sea.

India to stop evacuation

NEW DELHI (AP) — India has said it will stop organised evacuation of its nationals from the Gulf as most of those who wanted to come home have returned. "We have done our job and now there is no need for any more organised evacuation," Foreign Ministry spokesman Aftab Seth told reporters. Seth said between 16,000 and 18,000 Indians were still in Kuwait and about 6,000 in Iraq. "They want to stay there for one reason or the other," Seth said. India will formally end the evacuation programme Wednesday. "It was a very complicated and very tiring effort, but we finally did it," Seth said. At the beginning of the Gulf crisis there were an estimated 190,000 Indians in Kuwait and Iraq. Seth said if the remaining Indians want to return home in the future the government would reactivate the programme. "We are prepared to restart it if and when the need arises," he said.

Half of Canadians approve of Gulf role

TORONTO (AP) — Fifty-eight per cent of Canadian adults approve of Canadian armed forces being sent to the Gulf region, while 32 per cent disapprove, according to a poll released Monday. Ten per cent said they did not know or had no opinion. Canada has sent three ships carrying 934 sailors to the Gulf as well as 18 CF-18 fighter planes with 45 flying and support staff to help enforce an international trade blockade of Iraq. Some critics have blasted Prime Minister Brian Mulroney for not recalling parliament before he decided to send the troops. The Gallup poll suggested that support for the move diminishes with age. Among those respondents under 40, 64 per cent favour sending troops to the Middle East. But the figure dropped to 60 per cent of those in their 40s, to 57 per cent of those aged 50 to 64 and to

Hammad, Swareddahab review aid to evacuees

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 8,212 evacuees Monday arrived in Jordan through various border points, according to Public Security Department sources. The sources said that a total of 12,941 evacuees had left Monday, including 4,535 Arab nationals and 3,677 foreigners.

The evacuees' problem was the subject of discussion at a meeting held Tuesday between Salameh Hammad, Ministry of Interior's secretary-general, who is also chairman of the Evacuees Welfare Committee, and the former Sudanese head of state, Abdul Rahman Swareddahab, who is vice-president of the World Islamic Council.

Hammad and Swareddahab reviewed the efforts made by the Jordanian government and the international organisations to deal with the problem of evacuees.

They also discussed the role the council can play in supporting the official and unofficial Jordanian efforts to alleviate the suffering of evacuees. Swareddahab said the evacuees problem constituted a burden and a challenge which was beyond Jordan's economic capacities.

In the meantime, the Evacuees Welfare Committee received an amount of children food donated by two American children. In a message the children sent to Hammad, they voiced their concern over the situation of the evacuees and their children, saying that the scenes of the evacuees, which world television networks have screened, have moved their feelings.

They expressed hope that other U.S. children would follow suit, and that the whole U.S. community would embark on a solution to this human tragedy.

The Pakistani Embassy in Amman Tuesday called on Jordan National Red Crescent Society President Ahmad Abu Qoura to assist in sending 20 tonnes of food supplies to the Pakistani nationals in Iraq.



Over 100 women organise a sit-in Tuesday outside U.N. headquarters in Amman to protest the massacre of 34 Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories (photo Yousif Al 'Ali)

Jordanian women protest killing of Palestinians, demand enforcement of U.N. resolutions

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of 100 women continued a sit-in and hunger strike Tuesday outside U.N. headquarters in Amman Shmeisani district, issuing a statement in which they asked U.N. peacekeeping forces to protect the Palestinian population in the Arab territories occupied by Israel.

The sit-in began Monday evening after news reached Amman that 30 Palestinians had been killed at the Haram Al Sharif in Jerusalem, one of the holiest shrines of Islam. The death of the 30 people at the hands of Israeli soldiers and the wounding of several hundred other Arabs enraged Jordanians, many of whom took to the streets Monday to protest the killings.

In a statement made available to the press, the women, led by

the Jordanian Women's Federation, said that the United Nations "should shoulder responsibility towards protecting civilian population in the occupied territories from massacres and deportations as well as imprisonment."

As black flags and Palestinian flags waved from the posts of the U.N. building, women read out poetry and sang songs commemorating those who had died in the four decades of long struggle to achieve "justice in Palestine."

The number of participants reached over 2,000 during the day as many women came to express their support for the strikers.

"It is the most humiliating phase of our struggle," said one woman participant in her 50s who said that the taking of the key of Al Aqsa Mosque was symbolic for a takeover by Israel authorities of the Islamic holy

shrine. "What has happened is unforgettable, our whole history has been marked by countless unforgettable events, massacres and destructive moves by Israel," she added wiping tears off her face.

Maybe the time has come," said another participant, "that we no longer count on the civilised west to take care of things."

Holding a list of demands, the women said that only direct international supervision of Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip could stop Israel from changing the cultural, demographic and religious character of Jerusalem and the occupied territories.

The women also asked that members of the United Nations impose economic sanctions on Israel to enforce the many U.N. Security Council resolutions pertaining to the issue of Palestine.

First Arab student wins coveted prize in competition organised by UPU and UNESCO

Jordanian student wins gold in letter-writing competition

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian student Rasha Al Etoum has won the year's gold medal from the Universal Postal Union (UPU) for the best and most impressive letter written on "the role of youth in combating hunger," a theme chosen by the union for 1990.

Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Nabil Abu Huda presented the medal to the student from Zein Al Sharaf Secondary School in Amman at a ceremony held in observance of the World Postal Day.

UPU has awarded Rasha Etoum the gold medal because she came first in a letter-writing competition by youths from around the world organised in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), according to a statement by the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications.

At the ceremony, which was attended by several officials, the minister paid tribute to the winning student, the first Arab student ever to win the prize since it was created by UPU in 1971.

He said that Rasha Etoum won the prize in a fierce competition from thousands of other young men and women from UPU's 170 member states.

"The prize clearly manifests the high standard of culture among the Jordanian youths and will leave a strong impression with youths from the other member states," Abul Huda said.

The minister expressed delight for taking part in the ceremony to honour the winning student as other countries observe the World Postal Day, commemorating the establishment of UPU in 1948.

"I warmly congratulate Rasha Etoum on winning the prize be-

cause it is indeed a success for all Jordanian youth, and I seize this opportunity to urge all Jordanians to do all in their power to serve their country and reflect its excellent image to the outside world," the minister said in his brief address at the ceremony.

Since its establishment the UPU has charted a programme of activities which aims at promoting the development of international postal services and postal technical assistance to union members, guaranteed freedom of transit, unity postal charges and settle disputes by arbitration.

UPU is governed by a 40-member executive council based in Switzerland and is responsible for encouraging, supervising and coordinating international cooperation in the form of postal technical assistance and vocational training.

The discussions will be followed by a lecture on the status of the Jordanian economy delivered by Minister of Industry and Trade Ziad Fariz.

Trade board to discuss economic situation

AMMAN (Petra) — The board of the Federation of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce will meet Thursday in response to a request by Madaba District Chamber of Commerce.

Secretary of Madaba Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mousa Abu Zarqi said that the board would discuss several issues on the economic situation in the country and the reflections of the Gulf crisis on it.

The paper presented by Madaba chamber also deals with means of promoting exports and tapping new markets to export Jordanian products.

The board will also discuss another working paper, presented by Irbid Chamber of Commerce, dealing with an amendment to the income tax law for the year 1989 and the professions licensing law. The paper also includes a proposal made by the chamber to form an official delegation to tour several countries with the aim of finding new markets for Jordanian products.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

* Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
★ Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Department of Antiquities' Registration and Research Centre, Jabal Amman.
★ Plastic art exhibition by four Palestinian artists depicting the suffering of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation at the Jordan National Gallery for Fine Arts.
★ Exhibition entitled "Science in Profile" at the British Council.

LECTURE

* Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "Zionist Plots During and After the Gulf Crisis" by Dr. Asaad Abdul Rahman at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:30 p.m.

FILM

* Feature film entitled "Defence of the Realm" at the British Council — 5:00 p.m.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Brazilian president thanks King for help

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a telephone call from Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello who voiced his country's gratitude and appreciation to the King for his goodwill efforts with Iraq ensuring the departure of Brazilians from Iraq. The Brazilian president voiced hope that the King pursues efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis.

Badran condoles crown prince of Dubai

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Tuesday sent a cable to Sheikh Maktoum Ben Rashed Al Maktoum, the Crown Prince of Dubai, condoling him over the death of his father Sheikh Rashed Ben Maktoum. Badran voiced deep regret and sorrow for the passing away of Sheikh Rashed, saying that Jordanians hold special respect and appreciation to him for his honourable stands towards Jordan.

Parliamentarians to leave for IPU meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — A parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Taher Al Maari, chairman of the Lower House of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, leaves for Uruguay Wednesday to take part in the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) 84th conference. The six-day conference is scheduled to discuss several issues related to international and regional cooperation, enhancing the democratisation process worldwide as well as the Arab

Religious leaders, heads of organisations denounce the crimes against Palestinians, urge unified Arab stand to face aggression

AMMAN (Petra) — Heads of the eastern churches in Jordan Tuesday issued a statement urging all men, women and children in Palestine to escalate the holy war against the Israeli forces and protect the Christian and Islamic holy places in Palestine.

"As the Arab and Islamic nations are now facing the most dangerous challenge to their existence and to their holy shrines, Arab states, which chose to support America in its action against Iraq, should wake up to reality and realise that they too will be facing the Zionist danger," said the statement.

It appealed to the Arab states to take whatever steps are needed to force the foreign forces to leave the Arabian peninsula and to unite their own forces in the face of Israel's atrocities and criminal actions in Palestine.

President of the Jordanian Press Association Hashem Kheiret Tuesday sent a cable to United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in which he called him to intervene to stop the massacre against the Palestinian people and to enable them to establish their independent state on their national soil.

"How can the United States, and its allies expect Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait at a time when Washington condones atrocities by its ally in occupied Jerusalem?" asked the statement.

The United Nations Security Council which opened the way for the United States and the Western alliance to mass forces in the Gulf should take drastic action and implement its own resolutions concerning Palestine and should condemn Israel's ac-

tions against the Palestinian people," the statement demanded.

"As the Arab and Islamic nations are now facing the most dangerous challenge to their existence and to their holy shrines, Arab states, which chose to support America in its action against Iraq, should wake up to reality and realise that they too will be facing the Zionist danger," said the statement.

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The United Nations Security Council which opened the way for the United States and the Western alliance to mass forces in the Gulf should take drastic action and implement its own resolutions concerning Palestine and should condemn Israel's ac-

against Palestinians in the occupied territories, heedless of all U.N. resolutions issued over the Palestinian problem."

Kheiret also called for the protection of civilians under occupation in line with the Geneva Convention, and requested the Security Council to adopt a more logical and honourable stand towards the Palestine question.

Chairman of the permanent committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Ahmad Abu Qoura denounced the killing of more than 30 Palestinians in Jerusalem by Israeli soldiers and said such savage acts by Israeli occupation forces defied the world's public opinion, international legitimacy and charters and its disregard of all international organisations and resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

The aggression, he said, was not only against citizens but also against holy places which are like human beings, protected by international laws.

He added that the massacre, which was committed by Israeli occupation soldiers and Zionists settlers, exceeded all limits and was more than immoral with live ammunition used against unarmed civilians in a place considered one of the most sacred.

Abu Qoura appealed to the

chairman of the International Red Cross Committee (ICRC) to carry out his duties in protecting civilians living under occupation.

The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Tuesday condemned the massacre committed by the Israeli authorities against Palestinians, and called for a unified Arab stand to counter the challenges facing the Arab Na-

tion.

In a statement issued Tuesday, the Council said that this ugly crime stressed the insistence of Israel, which receives the full support and encouragement of the imperialist forces, to defile the world's public opinion, international legitimacy and charters and its disregard of all international organisations and resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

"The circumstances under which the crime was committed and its nature and ugliness constitute a new warning and a loud outcry to all the Arab countries to unify their positions to face the dangers ahead of them," the statement said.

The statement called on the Arab states to adopt a united position to face such aggressions against the Palestinian people and to defend the holy places.

Royal Committee on Jerusalem condemns massacre of Palestinians

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Committee on Jerusalem Affairs has called on Prime Minister Mudar Badran to convene a meeting of the Higher Committee on Jerusalem, which is chaired by King Hassan II of Morocco, to discuss the massacre of Palestinian people in the holy city of Jerusalem Monday and means of confronting Israel's atrocities.

The committee said in a message to the prime minister that the higher committee, which was created by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), should take charge of its duty and provide protection to the Islamic holy places, a task entrusted to Jordan since the beginning of Israel's occupation of Arab territories in 1967.

At the same time the Royal Committee on Jerusalem Affairs issued a statement strongly condemning Israel's massacre of Palestinian people in the courtyard of the Al Aqsa Mosque Monday as a crime directed against defenceless people.

The statement accused the United States of encouraging Israel's acts of terrorism by condoning earlier atrocities and crimes and by massing troops to consolidate its occupation and invasion of the

Arab territories.

The killing of tens of people and the wounding of hundreds others at the hand of the Israeli authorities have been planned in advance by the Israeli authorities as part of an all out plot to exterminate the Palestinian people, said the statement.

The new brutal crime against the Palestinians came at a time when the leaders of the Arab and Islamic countries are involved in side issues and when certain Arab

leaders are urging the invaders of

Arab lands to launch an aggression on the Arab Nation to pave the way for pillaging Arab oil wealth and abort all plans for the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the statement continued.

The statement drew attention to the fact that the Jordanian government has been issuing one appeal after another urging nations of the world and the United Nations Security Council to provide protection to the Palestinian people in implementation of the Geneva conventions, but all the appeals have gone unheeded and the Palestinians have continued to face oppression, the statement added.

It said that through brutal

crimes the Israelis were trying to subdue the Palestinians, end their uprising and exterminate the Palestinian nation.

Should the U.N. Security Council fail to stop the Israeli

crimes, the statement concluded,

the Arab and Islamic nations

would have no alternative but to wage a holy war in its most powerful form against the forces of evil to save the holy shrines in Palestine.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in Amman Tuesday issued a statement drawing attention to the long series of terrorist activities committed by the Israeli authorities in Palestine and its acts of sacrifice against the holy shrines.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is following up the news about the massacres with a heavy heart and can only appeal to the Arab and Islamic nations to beware of the Zionist conspiracies and to take immediate and speedy action against Israel's acts of oppression," the statement said.

It said that by such brutal

actions the Israeli authorities and the Zionists hope to build the so-called Jewish temple after demolishing Al Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest shrine for the Islamic World.

The Ministry of Awqaf Tues-

day sent cables to ministries of

awqaf in various Arab and Isla-

mic countries, warning of the Israeli designs against the holy places in Palestine and urging them to take unified

action to abort Israel's evil plots in Palestine.

Referring to Jordanian Roma-

nian trade, an embassy official said that it had been steadily

progressing over the years, with

the two sides maintaining a balanced volume of trade totalling around \$90 million annually.

Earlier this week Romanian

Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1990 5

Israel seals off complex

(Continued from page 1)

Jerusalem's chief Muslim cleric, 80-year-old Saeeddin Al Azaam, was overcome by tear-gas and carried away on a stretcher and hospitalised.

Muslim leaders said the keys were returned after dark to allow evening prayers.

They said it was the first time Israel has sealed the compound containing the city's two main mosques.

Black flags fluttered from rooftops throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip where the army confined nearly one million Palestinians to their homes to prevent the spread of protests. Others were barred from leaving their towns.

Israel's 700,000 Arabs, voicing solidarity with the 1.75 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, began two days of mourning in protest at the killings.

In Taibe village, two policemen were hurt by stone-throwers.

In Tamra village in the Galilee, thousands of residents gathered for the funeral of a 28-year-old Arab killed in the violence in Jerusalem.

"Your martyrs can rest in peace. We will follow in your footsteps," chanted thousands of Arabs waving Palestinian flags during a march through the town of Umm Al Fahoum while police kept their distance.

In a leaflet, Palestinian leaders of the 34-month-old uprising ordered the killing of all Israeli soldiers in the occupied territories.

Police said they arrested

Sheikh Mohammad Said Jamal,

the deputy spiritual leader of Muslims in the Holy Land, on suspicion of inciting an attack on Jews at the Western Wall just before Monday's violence.

Adnan Al Hussein, director of the Islamic waqf, said it was the first time in 700 years that Mus-



'Temple Mount Faithful' zealots march through occupied Jerusalem carrying banners reading

'Temple Mount — the symbol of our people — is in the hands of our enemies'

liners had been denied a chance to pray at Al Aqsa Mosque.

Muslims said they attacked on Monday because a group of Jewish zealots was planning to lay a cornerstone for a new temple on the site. But Israeli leaders contended that was only a pretext to divert world attention from the Gulf crisis.

Jerusalem police chief Arye Bibi said police told the Al Aqsa mosque about before violence erupted that no one would enter the area, including the zealots.

The violence came after a relative lull in the Palestinian uprising, and began when Muslims at the complex tossed a barrage of stones onto Jews celebrating a festival at the wall below.

Riot squads charged into the compound and, according to Israeli officials, opened fire when they found themselves heavily outnumbered against thousands.

Police said 19 Arabs died and some 140 were wounded, along with half a dozen policemen and 28 Jewish civilians hit by Arab rock-

throwers. Thirty-seven Arabs and five Jews remained in hospitals Tuesday, hospitals and police said. Other reports said at least 30 Palestinians were killed.

While Arab activists called a week-long protest strike in the occupied territories and a two-day shutdown in Arab towns, Israeli public reaction consisted of:

Israel radio said the Haram Al Sharif complex would be closed to worshippers and tourists until after the victims' funerals.

Police arrested Faisal Al Husseini, the top Palestinian leader in the West Bank, at the complex Monday on suspicion of inciting the violence.

The Israeli police chief, in an interview on Israel radio, defended his forces' use of live ammunition.

"At the moment I am convinced there was no alternative but to use live ammunition given the quantity of stones thrown (at worshippers) by the wall and at police," he said.

Israel Deputy Foreign Minis-

ter Benjamin Netanyahu Tuesday rejected a proposal by some members of the U.N. Security Council to send a fact-finding mission to occupied Jerusalem.

"The government of Israel is the sole force responsible for security in Jerusalem and we do not accept any foreign intervention in the question of security in Jerusalem," he told the radio.

Yossi Sarid, a legislator of the left-wing Citizens' Rights Movement, said that the violence resulted from the failure of police to be ready for Muslim protests after the Jewish extremist group announced plans to march on the area, including the zealots.

"There is no doubt that the police prepared itself for this, this would have been prevented," he said on Israel radio. "The police didn't listen to the warnings."

There also were other questions on why fewer than 50 policemen were stationed around the area, flooding themselves "overwhelmed" and opening fire with live ammunition.

Israel has no choice but to leave Arab land — Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

Western sources also say it has modified Scud-D missiles to increase their range to more than 500 kilometres. They are capable of carrying chemical weapons in Iraq's arsenal.

Saddam said in his statement that,

"It is Israel which must leave Palestine, the armies of America and its allies have to choose but to leave the holy sites of Arabs and Muslims in Saudi Arabia."

The speech included references to historical instances when the weak conquered the strong.

"You have to remember, Zionists, that the heavier your weapons, the more arrogant you are and the more sins you commit."

"The one whose sins have increased is closer the abyss," he added.

Iraq's Al Thawara, the official organ of its ruling Baath Party, said in an editorial Tuesday Monday's massacre "will not go without retaliation, and the Arab Nation is certainly capable to retaliate and it will."

"It would not have been possible without the support of the American imperialism, which provides the Zionist entity with all necessary weapons and political protection," said the editorial.

"It will turn into a massive wave of indignation, which will take the pan-Arab struggle into a step towards the liberation of Jerusalem and all other Arab lands and claim the Arab homeland from treachery and

occupation," the editorial said. Al Thawara's editorial also criticised Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, saying Arab indignation over the Palestinian deaths "will sweep them away, even if they issue verbal condemnation of the crime."

Baghdad announced three days of national mourning for the dead and said the massacre supported its repeated demands for a direct link between the Gulf crisis and a wider Middle East settlement, in particular the plight of the Palestinians.

The chief of the Arab Department at Iraq's Foreign Ministry, Saad Qasem Hammoudi, said the big powers and the international community should act to guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people.

They should force "Israel to recognise these rights in the same severe way that the Security Council showed in response to the events in the Gulf," he told Reuters.

He said that the massacre would not have happened if the United States had not prevented action against Israel by repeatedly using its veto in the Security Council.

This crime reconfirms the importance of President Saddam Hussein's Aug. 12 initiative which links comprehensively the Gulf crisis to the Palestinian question and other conflicts in the area," he said.

This crime throws the fight on the core of the Middle East problem which is represented by ignoring the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and establishment of an independent state."

The Iraqi Defence Ministry daily newspaper Al Oudia, describing the killings as a violation of human rights and a challenge to the international community, said Israel had implemented no Security Council resolution.

"Where is the Security Council from its 160 resolutions on the Palestinian question, of which Israel has not implemented a single one?" it asked.

"Where is the United States, which Bush says leads the world and is the protector of human rights and the defender of international law, from

what has happened and what is happening now in the occupied Arab territories?" the newspaper asked.

"Where is the legitimacy of the planes, fleets and armies that were deployed in the land of Nafid and Hija (Saudi Arabia) and the Gulf?"

A presidential statement, carried by the Iraq News Agency (INA), declared three days of national mourning.

"Where is the Security Council from its 160 resolutions on the Palestinian question, of which Israel has not implemented a single one?" it asked.

"Bush reconfirms its basic position that the problem of peace in the Middle East should be solved through Israeli withdrawal from all the territories occupied since 1967, recognition of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish an independent state, recognition of Israel's right to exist; and that such a solution should be achieved through negotiations among all the parties concerned including the PLO, ultimately through the holding of an international conference," it added.

Japan urges the Israeli authorities to exercise the utmost self-restraint

and pay consideration based on international law and humanity to the Palestinians in the occupied territories," it said.

"Japan reconfirms its basic position that the problem of peace in the Middle East should be solved through Israeli withdrawal from all the territories occupied since 1967, recognition of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish an independent state, recognition of Israel's right to exist; and that such a solution should be achieved through negotiations among all the parties concerned including the PLO, ultimately through the holding of an international conference," it added.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia followed with extreme concern the reports about the crime committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian citizens in the city of Jerusalem, leading to the death of more than 20 Palestinians and the injury of hundreds," said the statement.

The number of reported deaths

"The Kingdom strongly rejects those criminal deeds and considers them a severe insult to the feelings of millions of Muslims who revere the Al Aqsa Mosque... and an infringement by the Israeli occupation forces on the Islamic creed," it said.

The statement reaffirmed Saudi support for the Palestinian people

and their struggle to have an independent state."

Syria accused Israel of organising the killing to force Arabs leave the occupied territories and make way for Jewish immigrants.

Official daily Al Thawara said Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and world preoccupation with the Gulf crisis gave Israel a valuable opportunity to continue its plans to settle thousands of Jewish immigrants in Arab lands."

In Manama, Al Abbadi, spokesman for the Jordanian National Democratic Coalition (JAND), an umbrella for pan-Arab and leftist groups, addressed a press conference at noon and urged Jordanians to express their anger and indignation over Monday's events in "constructive" ways.

"Demonstrate in front of the embassies of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council," he said. He also urged that the government to "train the population in the art of self-defence."

Abdullah said JAND had sent a memo to the leaders of the Palestine

and the Shmeisani district singing and chanting pan-Arab anti-American and anti-Israeli slogans.

Wielding black flags and photos of His Majesty King Hussein, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and the late Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir, the demonstrators also held aloft dozens of banners condemning American support for Israel and Israeli practices in the occupied territories.

Four demonstrations began at noon at the Windat refugee camp where Deputy Bassam Haddadin addressed crowds urging them not to clash with security forces.

Demonstrations also continued throughout the day in Jabal Al Nasr and Jabal Al Joffeh as well as in many towns and cities in the north.

About 250 labourers stopped work at the site of the new American embassy demanding that the U.S. send an international protection force to the occupied territories to protect the civilian population and that the U.N. implement all its Security Council resolutions on the Palestine issue.

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Cabinet denounces Israel's 'brutal crime'

Address to U.N.

In New York, Jordan's permanent representative at the U.N., Abdullah Salah, called on the world body and the Security Council to embark on speedy consultations for convening an international Middle East peace conference.

In an address delivered at a special Security Council session to review the situation in the occupied territories, Salah said: "For how long can the world condone Israel's crimes and allow the Jewish state to escape unpunished?"

"The criminal and racist action committed in Jerusalem is another example of Israel's aggressive practices and repression against the Palestinian people," he said.

"The world realises that the Palestine problem forms the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict and it is a problem of a people deprived of their land and right," he said. "If the world fails to reach a just and lasting solution for this problem, the Arab-Israeli conflict will continue to cause a direct threat to world peace and security."

Salah expressed Jordan's hope that the Security Council will take action no less firm than that taken with regard to the Gulf crisis.

"Let us hope," he said, "that the council's dealing with the Gulf crisis will mark a new stage in a new world governed by new principles and criteria and that the council's concern over security and peace in our part of the world

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1990 7

Saddam speech pushes oil price over \$40 a barrel

LONDON (R) — Oil prices leaped around \$2 to more than \$40 a barrel Tuesday in reaction to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's verbal attack on Israel.

North Sea Brent blend, the world benchmark, was quoted at \$40.07 a barrel for November loading, up from a close of \$38.05 Monday.

Traders said they feared the Middle East was near flashpoint after Hussein told Israel in a broadcast that Israelis should leave Arab lands and said Baghdad had a new long-range missile.

World oil prices have doubled since Iraq invaded Kuwait because of fears that fighting would disrupt supplies. They last edged towards \$40 Sept. 28.

London futures prices on the International Petroleum Exchange rose on the news that the Iraqi leader would be making an announcement and edged higher after his speech.

Dollar dives

TOKYO (R) — The dollar took another dive against the yen in Tokyo Tuesday but by the end of hectic trading it had recovered some of its losses. Most Asian stock markets were in a holding pattern. The dollar closed at 129.95 yen and 1.5238/43 Deutsche marks after closing in New York Monday at 130.35/45 and 1.5310/25. The U.S. currency dipped to an intra-day low of 128.95 yen in the morning, its lowest traded level in Tokyo since March 10, 1989, when it hit an intra-day low of 128.82 yen, dealers said. The dollar rose sharply from its low after the Bank of Japan (BOJ) checked exchange rates and on news that BOJ sources had said a dollar freefall could undermine the stability of the world economy, dealers said. Tokyo stocks closed lower as investors took profits on gains charted in the early morning because of the higher yen.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

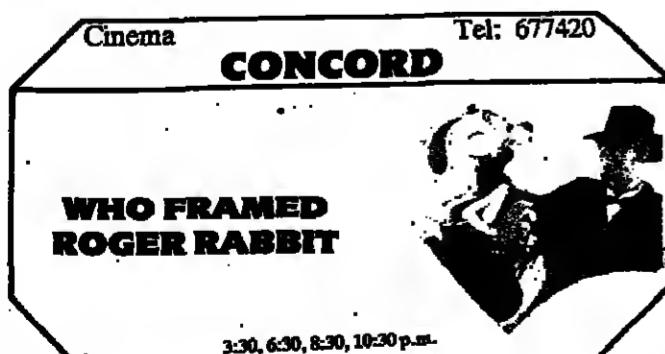
| Tuesday, October 9, 1990 Central Bank official rates | |
|--|---------------|
| Bal' " Sell | Buy " Sell |
| U.S. dollar | 650.0 654.0 |
| Pound Sterling | 1283.2 1290.9 |
| Danishmark | 427.7 430.3 |
| Swiss franc | 511.0 514.1 |
| French franc | 127.7 128.5 |
| Japanese yen (for 100) | 509.0 503.9 |
| Dutch guilder | 379.4 381.7 |
| Swedish crown | 115.6 116.3 |
| Italian lira (for 100) | 57.1 57.4 |
| Belgian franc (for 10) | 205.7 206.9 |

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

| One Sterling | 1.9715/25 | U.S. dollar | Canadian dollar |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| One U.S. dollar | 1.1505/15 | Deutschmarks | Dutch guilders |
| | 1.5265/70 | Swiss francs | Swedish crowns |
| | 1.7200/10 | French francs | Belgian francs |
| | 1.2753/65 | Italian lire | Japanese yen |
| | 31.34/39 | Swedish crowns | Norwegian crowns |
| | 5.1075/1125 | Norwegian crowns | Danish crowns |
| | 1143/1144 | Danish crowns | U.S. dollars |
| | 130.40/50 | | |
| | 5.6225/75 | | |
| | 5.8990/9040 | | |
| | 5.8125/75 | | |
| One ounce of gold | 394.90/395.40 | | |

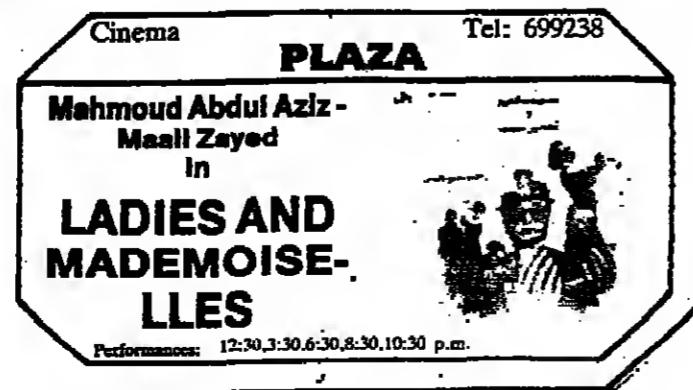
TO DAY AT CONCORD



RAINBOW COMING TO AMERICA



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Things are bad all over Forbes richest get poorer this year

NEW YORK (AP) — The richest people in America also are feeling a lot poorer this year.

From debt-dogged developer Donald Trump, to financial felon Michael Milken, to the barons of telecommunications and cable TV, fortunes of the wealthiest declined dramatically this year, Forbes magazine says.

Fifty-three of the Forbes 400 list suffered declines in net worth ranging from \$100 million to \$380 million, the magazine said in its Oct. 22 edition, released Monday.

For the first time since Forbes began publishing the list in 1982, the minimum net worth required to join the elite ranking dropped, from \$275 million in 1989 to \$260 million this year.

Some names such as Trump's were evicted, another symbolic boot to the 1980s era of living on borrowed money. Forbes said Trump's fortune, estimated at \$1.7 billion in 1989, was possibly within "hauling distance of zero" because of looming loans and a slow economy.

Trump, who previously has denounced Forbes for downgrading his ranking on the list, did not return a telephone call for comment.

"It's not just the year Donald Trump's and some other overleveraged fortunes hit the wall," the magazine said. "This year the entire Forbes 400 list seemed to stop going up and, on balance, start going down."

"This year all kinds of things went down: Real estate, media, banks, public stocks, private companies, you name it," Forbes said.

It said the declines "reflected a general scaling down of capital values brought about in a good part by a worldwide shrinkage of credit and sinking stock markets."

That's not to say the wealthiest are hurting unbearably. The estimated worth of the Forbes 400

Israel to put United Mizrahi under hammer next week

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli government will invite investors to bid next week for United Mizrahi Bank Ltd., the country's fourth largest banking group with 1989 total assets of more than \$7 billion, officials said Tuesday.

The total figure is actually up \$3.5 billion over last year's total, but the magazine said that's due to its discovery of previously hidden sources of wealth among some members of the list.

Forty-three names were added to the list this year, meaning 43 old names came off. Six died, including the magazine's own namesake Malcolm Forbes. The fortunes of 35 fell too far in be included.

In addition, Alfred Dreyfus Goldman, with a 1989 real estate fortune estimated at \$400 million, was removed from the list because of an inheritance dispute with his brother, William Barron Hilton was dropped because part of his 1989 total of \$1.25 billion actually belongs to a foundation.

As in 1989, the richest person on the list was John Werner Kluge, 76, thrice-married entertainment entrepreneur who made his \$5.6 billion fortune by building up Metromedia Co., a wide-ranging telecommunications company.

No. 2 is investor Warren Buffett, 60, who bought his first stock at age 11 and parlayed a savvy flair for picking stocks into a \$3.3 billion fortune.

Third is debt-financed takeover specialist Ronald Perelman, 47, who borrowed money to build an empire that ranges from the Revlon cosmetics company to Coleman camping products to savings and loans. Forbes pegged his worth at \$2.87 billion.

Others among the richest of the 400 names: Real estate-industrial magnate Henry Hillman, 71, worth \$2.65 billion; Cox newspaper heiress siblings Anne Cox Chambers, 70, and Barbara Cox Anthony, 67, worth \$2.6 billion each; Newhouse media heirs Samuel Newhouse Jr., 62, and Donald Newhouse, 61, worth \$2.6 billion each and brothers Jay Pritzker, 68, and Robert Pritzker, 64, owners of a business conglomerate that includes the Hyatt Hotel chain, \$2.7 billion each.

Also at \$2.5 billion were Walmart retailing king Sam Walton, 72, each of his four children, and William Gates III, founder of computer software giant Microsoft Corp.

More notable, however, were the people whose net worth tumbled. The biggest victim was Sumner Murray Redstone, owner of the entertainment giant Viacom International Inc., whose fortune dropped from \$2.88 billion to \$2 billion.

Others in the big-loser category included publishing-entertainment baron Rupert Murdoch, whose fortune fell by \$600 million to \$1.1 billion; cable TV mogul Ted Turner, whose worth fell \$460 million to \$1.3 billion and convicted Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc. junk-bond pioneer Milken, whose worth plunged \$70 million to \$700 million, largely because of \$600 million in criminal penalties and losses from Drexel's collapse earlier this year.

COMCEC has met annually in Istanbul since 1985 to promote and coordinate economic relations among members.

The meetings will end Wednesday.

Bush signs emergency spending bill, U.S. government reopens

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush signed emergency legislation early Tuesday to keep the government open for another 11 days but said there is "no assurance" Congress will reach agreement on a \$500 billion deficit reduction package.

His approval ended a three-day holiday weekend shutdown just hours before its full force would have hit the federal workforce.

"While I am not fully satisfied with the budget resolution, it does provide a framework within which the committees of the Congress can now work" to resolve the budget stalemate, Bush was willing to sign.

But there is no guarantee the new deficit package will pass once the details are filled in — just as there was no guarantee that the package Bush pitched on television barely a week ago would carry.

Indeed the House voted that one down last Friday, rewriting a script that played out as a long, holiday weekend of uncertainty marked by scenes of thousands of Americans being herded from national parks as their government started winding down for the winter.

The House of Representatives gave final congressional approval to the legislation by a 362-3 margin at 1:45 a.m.

The Congress has now passed a budget resolution which, if fully implemented, would reduce the federal deficit by \$500 billion over the next five years. If achieved, this would be the largest deficit reduction program in history, Bush said.

But Bush expressed concern that, "there is, unfortunately, no assurance that the congressional committee will, in fact, produce a fully satisfactory reconciliation bill. But I repeat: I will not accept business as usual."

Bush warned that unless the final reconciliation bill includes real saving with "no smoke, no mirrors," he would refuse to sign it by Oct. 19, the date the extension expires.

The hope is that Congress and the White House can get together by then on details of a loosely drawn deficit reduction package for the current fiscal year and four years into the future. It was adoption of that package by both houses earlier Monday that cleared the way for passage of an emergency spending bill Bush

was willing to sign.

But there is no guarantee the new deficit package will pass once the details are filled in — just as there was no guarantee that the package Bush pitched on television barely a week ago would carry.

The outlines will be fleshed out by the committees of Congress, with plenty of advice from the White House, lobbyists and interest groups, and the debate will start all over when they present their product to the full House and Senate.

The budget could force a showdown on the most fiercely fought tax issues of the Bush presidency — his demand for a cut in the capital gains tax and opposition to raising rates on earned income.

Democrats contend the wealthy should pay more and that capital gains cuts would in the opposite direction.

Passage of the emergency spending bill by voice vote in the Senate and by a 362-3 House tally ended a long weekend of tense, partisan battles beginning with House rejection early Friday of the original \$500 billion budget accord.

The president, who endorsed that package and lobbied hard for it, was repudiated by a majority of his House Republicans.

Legislators in both parties objected to proposals such as a 12-cent increase in gasoline taxes and higher fees on medicare, health care for the elderly.

After the budget fell, Bush Saturday vetoed an attempt by Congress to keep the government open while the plan was revised. As a result, national parks and monuments were closed.

The closing were required because the budget stalemate has blocked enactment of any of the spending bills which give government agencies authority to spend money in the fiscal year that began Oct. 1.

The emergency spending bill also included a temporary increase in the national debt, to \$3.195 trillion, needed to prevent a default by the Treasury.

"We can't go on each year spending billions of dollars more than we take in," said Senate majority leader George Mitchell. "One decade of national self indulgence is enough. This nation can't stand two decades."

Turkey rules out rescue operation for Polly Peck

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey has ruled out a rescue plan for beleaguered British fruit-to-electronics conglomerate Polly Peck, and a Turkish bank bail-out is unlikely, government officials said.

"Turkey cannot intervene in such a rescue plan," a senior government official, who requested anonymity, told Reuters.

"This is against the legal framework, and it is also politically risky."

Tahsin Karan, the head of the main Turkish subsidiary, said Oct. 2 the Turkish government was considering assistance for the group, which needs some £100 million (\$200 million) to cover its short-term debts.

Asil Nadir, 47, Polly Peck's Turkish-Cypriot chairman and a political ally of Turkish President Turgut Ozal, secured a one week debt repayment standstill from some 60 creditor banks Friday.

Newspapers said Nadir was seeking £100 million (\$200 million) from Turkish banks. The government official said banks were free to examine the case and give financial assistance if they wished.

"From our point of view, this is only a commercial banking issue," the official said.

But such a rescue operation

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L

Rwandan capital calm, but troops still fighting rebels in north

NAIROBI, Kenya (Agencies) — Hundreds of suspected rebel sympathisers were being held in Rwanda's capital Tuesday as the government battled what it described as a force of 10,000 insurgents in the northeast.

The government said about 500 people had been arrested for questioning. But other reports said as many as 3,000 people, mainly members of the minority Tutsi tribe, had been picked up.

Diplomats in the capital, Kigali, could not give a precise figure, but said hundreds were being held in jails and at a stadium outside the city.

The foreign envoys Monday were briefed about the situation in the country by Rwanda's foreign minister, Casimir Bizimungu.

He put the size of the invading force at 10,000 and said 30 army troops and 200 rebels had been killed in the 10-day old conflict. Bizimungu claimed the rebels were "assassinating" civilians, but did not elaborate.

One foreign envoy said travellers from the north had told him of seeing "many corpses," but had provided no specific numbers.

Rebels calling themselves the Rwandese Patriotic Front invaded the tiny central African country from its northern neighbour Uganda on Sept. 30. The

force is made up of Rwandan refugees predominantly of the minority Tutsi tribe and many of them are deserters from Uganda's army.

In weekend interviews with a London newspaper, the Independent, the rebels denied harming civilians.

"The local people are astonished that we haven't done what the government said we'd do — raping them, killing them," Major Peter Bayingana told the newspaper.

In a news release Monday, the rebels said they sought to protect civilians in the battle to oust President Juvenal Habyarimana, whose government they accuse of corruption, human rights abuses and dictatorial leadership.

The rebels also warned foreign governments not to interfere in the conflict.

France, Belgium and Zaire have sent nearly 1,500 troops to protect their citizens and embassies in Kigali where street battles erupted Friday.

Nearly 1,000 expatriates, mostly women and children, left Rwanda on specially scheduled flights during the weekend. But the exodus appeared to have ended by Monday when shops reopened and people were allowed to walk around the city

for the first time in four days.

Residents reported hearing no shooting in the capital overnight and said that by Tuesday most businesses had reopened.

Bizimungu said the country was calm except for the northeastern Mutara region where Rwandese soldiers were fighting the rebels. He claimed the invaders had sophisticated weaponry including mortars, armoured vehicles and machine guns.

Bayingana, however, denied the government claim. He said the rebels had pushed army troops out of the region and set up headquarters about 12 miles inside Rwanda.

The rebel force is led by Uganda's former deputy army commander, Maj. Gen. Fred Rwigema, a Rwandan of Tutsi origin.

The insurgents sprung from the approximately 250,000 Tutsi refugees who have been living in Uganda since late 1950s and early 1960s, when they fled Rwanda to escape massacres by the majority Hutu tribe.

Many have long wanted to return to their homeland, but Rwanda's government has refused to repatriate them, claiming lack of space in the impoverished nation of 8 million.

The rebel invasion is drawing hundreds of Uganda-based re-

fugees back towards a homeland many have not seen for 30 years and which some, born in exile, have never laid eyes on at all.

Walking barefoot, they carry no luggage and have abandoned jobs and families in the hope of fulfilling their dream of returning to the remote central African state.

"We are going home," they told surprised Ugandan border police at the Muvumba River frontier, before pushing aside a customs barrier and walking past a sign that declared "you have entered Rwanda."

The rebels claim to have now fought 65 kilometres into Rwanda.

Some 500 Zairean troops flown in to help Habyarimana fought a two-hour battle with the rebels near the northeastern town of Gabiro Monday, the official Zairean News Agency AZAP said.

"This invasion has joined us together," said one homeward-bound exile. Charles Gasimba, who added he had abandoned a trading business in Kampala to make the journey.

He said he was from the Hutu tribe, unlike most of the invaders who belong to the minority but once-dominant Tutsi, removed from power by the Hutu in a bloody 1959 rebellion that sent thousands into exile.

Tourists were wounded and five were missing in the skirmishes near the two northern Samar towns, about 464 kilometres southeast of Manila, said Brig Gen. Manuel Lanuza, chief of an army division in the

Filipino troops, rebels clash; 29 killed

CATARMAN, Philippines (AP)

— Government troops and Communist rebels clashed in the central Philippines and on the southern tip of Luzon Island, killing at least 29 people, the military reported Tuesday.

In the latest battle, about 300 Communist New People's Army guerrillas swooped down early Tuesday on three military outposts on the outskirts of the towns of Cataraman and San Isidro on Samar Island, and 21 people were killed in the clash, the military said.

Twenty other people were wounded and five were missing in the skirmishes near the two northern Samar towns, about 464

kilometres southeast of Manila, said Brig Gen. Manuel Lanuza, chief of an army division in the

area.

Lanuza said the dead included 10 soldiers, four civilians and seven insurgents. The rebels also took several high-powered firearms from the outposts before fleeing toward nearby forests, he added.

On Sunday, soldiers repulsed an attack by 150 Communist rebels on a military detachment in Ragay town in Camarines Sur province, about 208 kilometres southeast of Manila on the southern tip of Luzon.

A military report said eight rebels were slain when government reinforcements backed by a helicopter gunship strafed the insurgents' position.

The 19,000-member rebel army has been fighting the Manila government for more than 21 years to establish a Marxist government in the country.

Meanwhile President Corazon Aquino's spokesman suggested Tuesday that the leader of renegade soldier commit suicide as an "honourable way out" of a futile struggle against the government.

Meanwhile, prosecutors arrested a former interior minister and six others on corruption charges.

Press Secretary Tomas Gomez made the remark after hearing statements attributed to former Lt. Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan that last week's uprising in Mindanao Island was the first of a series of moves against the government.

Poland's General Prosecutor

Police tear gas crowds outside court trying Bhutto

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)

— Riot police Tuesday fired tear gas at stone-throwing crowds waiting to see ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto after she went before a special tribunal on corruption charges.

Witnesses said at least 30 people were hurt.

Police armed with cane batons and automatic rifles blocked off the normally traffic-clogged streets around Punjab High Court. The former premier appeared to answer charges of misconduct and abuse of power.

Security was stepped up around the court to keep out emotionally charged supporters, who a week earlier stormed and ransacked the courtroom and injured dozens of people.

Police had barricaded nearly a dozen streets and demanded stones and bricks.

Police had barricaded nearly a

dozen streets and demanded special security passes before allowing anyone to enter the court complex. Only lawyers, journalists, diplomats and human rights workers were allowed to observe Tuesday's hearing.

Ms. Bhutto sat quietly through

out the three-hour proceedings, at times scribbling notes or toying with her orange prayer beads and occasionally reading the Koran.

She said her throat was hoarse after a week of campaigning through Punjab, Pakistan's most populated and prosperous province.

About 2,000 supporters waited

outside the barricades to see the 37-year-old Ms. Bhutto, but shortly before she left the court, witnesses say police tried to force them to leave and some angry supporters started throwing stones and bricks.

COLUMN

George Strait wins top country award

MASHVILLE, Tennessee (R)

— George Strait, a genuine singing cowboy whose authentic twang rang up to record sales, was named Entertainer of the Year by the Country Music Association for the second year in a row.

Strait, 38, former Texas cattle rancher, scored big hits with "Amarillo By Morning" and "Does Fort Worth Ever Cross Your Mind?" Two of his albums have sold more than a million copies.

Oklahoman Vince Gill won single of the year at the televised awards

show Monday night, co-hosted by Reba McEntire and Randy Travis, for the smash title cut from his album "When I Call You Name." Lorrie Morgan's "Till A Tear Becomes A Rose" with the taped voice of her late husband, Keith Whitley, was honoured as the vocal event of the year. Whitley died of alcoholism in 1989. Song of the year was "Where've You Been?", sung by female vocalist winner Kathy Mattea and co-written by her husband, Jon Veitner, and Don Henry. Like Strait, Mattea, 31, repeated her victory of last year. Earlier this year she was also named Top Female Vocalist by the Academy of Country Music. Clint Black won the male vocalist award. The 28-year-old Houston ironworker burst onto the scene last year with his album "Killing Time," another million-seller. The five country blues rockers called Kentucky Headhunters took Vocal Group of the Year and Album of the Year with "Pickin' On Nashville." The mother-daughter team of Naomi and Wynona Judd, who have six platinum albums to their credit, were named the year's top vocal duo.

Parents offer to sell son

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— A couple has offered to sell one of their three sons, saying they need the money to pay bills. Philip and Judith Walther, who live in the small town of Moe in southeastern Victoria state, advertised their three sons — Benjamin, 21 months, Andrew, 4, and David, 7 — in a local shopping centre. The family could not be contacted for comment Tuesday, but Walther, 31, who is estranged from his wife, told a television programme Monday that he "would have to get at least \$15,000 for one of them," to repay his debts.

Meanwhile President Corazon Aquino's spokesman suggested Tuesday that the leader of renegade soldier commit suicide as an "honourable way out" of a futile struggle against the government.

The two generals were presented with charges that in September and October 1984 they instigated their subordinates to kill the Rev. Jerzy Popieluszko, and on Oct. 19 they directed the realisation of the murder," Herzog said.

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IRA gunman shot dead in N. Ireland

BELFAST (R) — British troops

shot dead a suspected IRA guerrilla and another gunman Tuesday when an undercover stakeout at a derelict farmhouse ended in a blaze of gunfire, security sources said.

Two men and a woman were arrested after the shootout in Loughgall, a tiny Northern Ireland village where British commandos shot dead eight Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerillas in an ambush three years ago.

The security sources said the elite commando Special Air Service (SAS) may have also been involved in Tuesday's military surveillance operation at a deserted farmhouse in which three rifles were recovered.

The arrest took place between Thursday and Friday. They are part of the first prosecution efforts by the Solidarity-led government against former high officials of the Communist Party.

Poland's General Prosecutor

Aleksander Herzog said in a television interview that the two arrested in the priest's death were former Deputy Interior Minister Wladyslaw Claston and Zenon Platek, the former head of the ministry's Fourth Department, which was responsible for monitoring the Roman Catholic Church.

The two generals were presented with charges that in September and October 1984 they instigated their subordinates to kill the Rev. Jerzy Popieluszko, and on Oct. 19 they directed the realisation of the murder," Herzog said.

The police station at Loughgall was demolished last month in an IRA bombing. Security in the area had been tightened because of IRA attacks on off-duty police and members of Northern Ireland's Ulster Defence Regiment.

At Loughgall in May, 1987 the IRA suffered the worst casualties ever inflicted on it during its 20-year fight to oust Britain from Northern Ireland.

Eight IRA gunmen attacking the village police station with a bomb in a mechanical digger were shot dead by undercover commandos. An innocent passer-by caught in the crossfire was also killed in the ambush.



Mahathir Mohamad

The sources named one of the dead men as Dannie Grew, who was suspected of killing up to 10 policemen and British soldiers in the Armagh area that is known as "handicapped country" because it is a noted IRA stronghold.

His brother Seamus was shot dead by police in 1982 in one of three shootings investigated by British police after allegations that the Northern Ireland Security Forces were adopting a "shoot-to-kill" policy.

Ballistics tests are being conducted on the weapons seized in Tuesday's shootout to see if they were used in previous attacks.

Troops sealed off the whole area around Loughgall with helicopters overseeing a major follow-up operation.

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